

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 07126 170648Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 DRC-01 /050 W
----- 125251

R 170605Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6245

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 7126

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

DESIRE TO ASSIST LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT

1. MR. DAVID L. ELDER, INDOCHINA REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (AFSC), CALLED AT EMBASSY OCTOBER 17 TO INQUIRE WHETHER USG REGULATIONS PRECLUDE AFSC FROM OPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) IN ASSISTANCE FIELD. ELDER SAID HE HAD MET RECENTLY WITH LPF/VIENTIANE PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY TO DISCUSS MODEST ASSISTANCE SUCH AS MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO LPF-CONTROLLED ZONE. THIS EFFORT WOULD BE MODELED AFTER AFSC DELIVERY OF SURGICAL EQUIPMENT TO HANOI IN THE PAST. ELDER SAID THAT SOTH PHETRASY HAD REACTED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO IDEA AND INDICATED THAT LPF DESIRED MOST TO RECEIVE SMALL PORTABLE SAWMILLS, BOTH IN LPF-CONTROLLED ZONE AND IN VIENTIANE WHERE LPF WOULD NEED TO CONSTRUCT HOUSING FOR INFLUX OF LPF PERSONNEL.

2. ELDER WISHED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WERE ANY USG RESTRICTIONS OR POLITICAL OBJECTIONS TO AFSC BEGINNING SUCH A RELATIONSHIP. EMBOFF INDICATED THAT USG FAVORED EFFORTS TO TURN LPF FROM TASKS OF WAR TO THOSE OF PEACE, SUCH AS RECONSTRUCTION IN LIBERATED ZONE.

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HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED THAT ELDER SEEK OUT RESPONSIBLE

RLG OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN THEIR OPINIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING
WITH ANY PLANS.

3. ELDER IS DEPARTING LAOS IN SEVERAL DAYS AND ASKED
THAT DEPARTMENT CONTACT MR. MARTIN TEITEL AT 160 NORTH
15TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, 19102, FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
OF THIS SUBJECT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS
AS WELL, SINCE OTHER SUCH ORGANIZATION AS AFSC MAY
ALSO HAVE SIMILAR PLANS IN MIND.
WHITEHOUSE

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To: STATE
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